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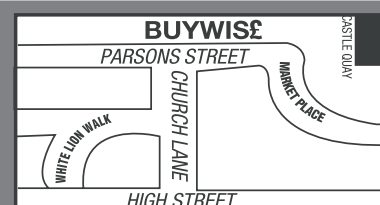
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U-turn as 707-space train station multi-storey bid supported

CAR PARKING PLAN BACKED

By Oliver Evans

PLANNING officers have made a U-turn over controversial plans for a multi-storey car park at Banbury train station and urged the scheme be approved.

Cherwell District Council planning officer Simon Dean backed the three-storey plan for 707 spaces after it won support from highways technicians

The pay-and-display facility would go next to the Royal Mail sorting office off Higham Way and link via a new bridge to the station.

Mr Dean last month urged the council's planning committee to throw out the plan because he was not satisfied there was enough information to show it would prevent congestion and ensure road safety.

Councillors delayed a decision pending a site visit and Oxfordshire County Council has now dropped its objection following talks with Chiltern Railways.

The operator said its plan was vital to meet growing passenger demand and make up for the impending loss of spaces in temporary car parks.

Mr Dean said extra information has shown it "will have an impact" on roads, but this is "not severe" when balanced against planning policy.

A new crossing will be provided in Merton Street and traffic light timings will be changed at the junctions of Bridge Street and Concorde Avenue and Merton Street.

Mr Dean also dropped his objection to the car park's impact on flats in Marshall Road opposite.

He previously said it would be "harmful to the residential character and amenity of these properties", but now says benefits "outweigh any harm" on residents.

Chiltern Railways has said the plan will screen noise from the station.

The Government has provided cash on the condition it provides 707 spaces and is built within a certain time, it added.

Chiltern said demand grew by 100 per cent from 2003-11 and is expected to grow 38 per cent by 2018, while leases on 315 spaces at Tramway Industrial Estate and 54 off Station Approach run out this year.

But 44 letters and a 124-signature petition opposed the plan with concerns about the car park's size, loss of light, impact on roads and design.



Joseph, played by Joe Sydenham, 10, right, with Potifer and Mrs Potifer, played by Sean Baker and Phoebe Kent, aged 10 and 11 respectively

Leading role has his name on it

SCHOOLCHILDREN have been putting the finishing touches to their show *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*.

Pupils from Deddington Primary School take to the stage at St Peter and St Paul Church, in Church Road, Deddington, tonight. About 150 students will take part in the show.

Alicia Rumsby, director of performing arts at the school, said: "I make sure that

each one gets a chance to come to the front, but the main principle that I try to instil is that it's all about the whole cast and school coming together as a team."

Joe Sydenham, 10, who plays Joseph, said: "I auditioned for Pharaoh as I thought it would be a good part. Playing Joseph really feels amazing."

Tickets cost £5 for adults and children up to 11 go free. Call 01869 338430 or email office.3452@ocnmail.net

Marshall Road resident Linda Wilson warned it would push the congested area to "breaking point". And Banbury Town Council said: "This site is not suitable for a car park of this size."

But West Street resident Ian Muddle said the south end of his road is often "packed" with commuters.

Great Rollright commuter Iain Coucher said the main car park was often full by 7.40am and the loss of a new facility "would have a significant impact on the economic health of Banbury".

The planning committee will be asked to decide when it meets at 4pm today.

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InBRIEF

Inquiry into homes plan

■ **BANBURY:** A planning inquiry into plans for 145 homes south of the Salt Way path in south Banbury will continue next month.

A Planning Inspectorate inquiry into the Banbury Development Securities scheme was held over three days in November.

The firm appealed after Cherwell District Council did not make a decision on the scheme, for land off Bloxham Road.

The inquiry will be held on March 19 at the council's offices in White Post Road, Bodicote at 10am. The public can attend.

Man charged over accident

■ **BANBURY:** A man has been charged with dangerous driving after a minibus crash on the M40 last year.

Mark Nicholson, 34, of Oldham, Greater Manchester, was also charged with driving without insurance and driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence.

On June 9, a minibus carrying 16 people overturned on the southbound M40 motorway between Gaydon, and Banbury.

Nicholson was bailed to appear at Banbury Magistrates' Court on Friday, March 15.

Woman hurt in collision

■ **BANBURY:** A 20-year-old woman was taken to hospital after being struck by a taxi in the early hours of Sunday.

She was injured outside the Odeon cinema in Horsefair at about 1.50am.

South Central Ambulance Service said she was taken to the Horton General Hospital with head injuries.

Police said a man was arrested on suspicion of careless driving.

Cyclist's book

■ **N OXON:** Matthew Blake, of Chacombe, who spent four years cycling around the world for charity, will sign copies of his book *I'll Be Home Just After Christmas* at AKA, Parsons Street, Banbury, at 1pm on Saturday.

Supermarket among plans to rejuvenate town

PLANS for a new Sainsbury's supermarket, nursing home, health centre and businesses in Brackley have been submitted.

Albion Land Limited has applied to South Northamptonshire Council for a development off Northampton Road to the north of the town.

It would comprise a Sainsbury's with 4,310sq m of retail floor space over two storeys with 433 parking spaces.

It said the plan would create 330 jobs. The development would feature a petrol station and three business premises, including a showroom, warehousing and offices.

A 70-bedroom hotel at the A43 roundabout including a restaurant and bar is also proposed and would create 35 jobs, the firm said.

A two-storey health centre fronting Turweston Road would provide a new

home for Brackley Health Centre and Washington House Surgery.

The application said: "It is the intention for the facility to provide a health hub for Brackley and its hinterland."

It is a "highly desirable component of the regeneration of Brackley and will replace a number of dated facilities", it added.

The care home would have 60 beds, including 48 for dementia sufferers, and

replace 12 beds from Brackley Cottage Hospital. Access for all would be from Northampton Road.

Mayor of Brackley Chris Cartmell, of Brackley Town Council, said the development would help with plans to provide 1,300 new homes in the town.

He said: "The population is going to expand from 1,500 up to nearer 20,000. That is enough slack in the market to give Sainsbury's some business."

■ Principal thrilled as inspectors call former struggling school 'good'

Academy improves rating from Ofsted



North Oxfordshire Academy principal Sara Billins

A **ONCE-FAILING** secondary school has been given another boost after it was praised by Ofsted inspectors.

North Oxfordshire Academy has been rated good by the Government education inspectorate, improving on its satisfactory rating from a 2010 inspection.

It comes after the former Drayton School was named one of the 30 most improved state UK secondaries from 2012's GCSEs last month.

Leaders said it was another indication of the change at the school, where just three years ago only 25 per cent of pupils got five or more good GCSEs.

In 2012, 59 per cent got at least five GCSEs including English and maths, making it the 27th most improved in the UK.

Ofsted said this was a "good achievement, given the students' below-average starting points".

It said teaching was good, principal Sara Billins gave "effective leadership" and the senior leadership was "strongly focused" on making improvements.

Disabled and special needs pupils made good progress and students "behave well, enjoy school and feel safe", it said.

Its report said: "In most lessons, students concentrate well, showing positive attitudes and a desire to learn.

"Disruption in lessons is uncommon and is dealt with effectively."

The sixth form has improved and offers an "appropriate range of courses", it said.

The Drayton Road school was not rated outstanding – the best possible grade – because of inconsistency in marking and achievement, it said.

Improvements could be made by ensuring students of all abilities are challenged, lessons are varied and marking is thorough in all subjects, it said.

It should also ensure there is a "whole-school focus on improving students' reading".

By Oliver Evans

Mrs Billins – who started in November 2011 – said: "We are all thrilled with this report which is a very fair reflection of everything North Oxfordshire Academy has achieved in recent years.

"I am delighted that the inspectors recognised all the work that is well under way to raise standards further."

She said: "We have our sights set on becoming an outstanding school and we are now focused on doing whatever it takes to achieve this."

Mrs Billins said strict new rules on uniform, attendance, punctuality and behaviour and a focus on recruitment had led to improvements.

The academy, which has greater independence from local authority rules, is sponsored by Northamptonshire-based United Learning.

Managing director Andy Buck said: "This is a huge vote of confidence in Sara Billins and her senior leadership team."

Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry has written to Mrs Billins to congratulate the academy on its progress.

He said: "It was very depressing that for so many years, Drayton School languished near the bottom of the league tables.

"It really is encouraging that as a consequence of the transition to an academy that each year North Oxfordshire Academy's results have been better than those of the year before," he added.

■ In an article about the closure of Hill View Pre-School in last week's *Banbury Cake*, we printed a list of alternative providers for pre-school aged children in the Banbury area supplied by Oxfordshire County Council.

We would like to point out that Drayton Pre-School and Hanwell Fields Community Primary School do not currently have any available spaces for pre-school children.

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InBRIEF

Decision on development

■ **BANBURY:** Plans for 10,500sq m of employment development at Wildmere Industrial Estate, near junction 11 of the M40, should be approved, a council planning officer has said.

Cherwell District Council's Jane Dunkin said the plan for one to three buildings between DHL and Lloyds TSB would create jobs and have a "natural impact" on roads. Further permission will be needed for detailed designs.

It is the last parcel of land in the area that has been earmarked by the council for employment. The planning committee will be asked to make a decision today.

Day of Dance help needed

■ **ADDERBURY:** Volunteers are being sought for this year's Day of Dance.

The High Street will be closed for the 11am-7pm celebration on April 27.

Call David Griffiths on 01925 810002 or 07963 615701.

Council tax bill increases

■ **N OXON:** The average band D Cherwell council tax bill will rise by £26.20 a year, it was confirmed.

Bills will rise by 1.8 per cent after Oxfordshire County Council put up its take by 1.99 per cent, giving it £1,184.83 from April 1 for a band D.

Thames Valley Police gets an extra two per cent, a total of £157.38 for a band D while Cherwell District Council has frozen its take, £123.50, for band D.

Parish and town councils will get further cash.

To see how much you'll pay, log on to tinyurl.com/anj62gf

TV star cuts ribbon for store makeover



Laurence Llewellyn-Bowen, centre, reopens Banbury's B&Q. Also there was Sir Tony Baldry MP, Nicky King, with her one-year-old son Daniel, and her mother-in-law Margaret King

HOME makeover TV star Laurence Llewellyn-Bowen officially reopened a revamped DIY store in Banbury.

The *Changing Rooms* star cut the ribbon with Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry at the Broughton Road store on Friday.

The branch has been redesigned and has

By Oliver Evans

extra service points throughout. The move has added 10 new jobs to the 55-strong employee roster.

Mr Llewellyn-Bowen said: "I've already picked my top picks from the new décor

range which include a fabulous leopard print wallpaper."

Joining him was Nicky King, from Morris Drive, Banbury, who won a contest to help open the store. Mrs King – who attended with mother-in-law Margaret King and son Daniel, one – said: "It was fantastic – he was so down to earth."

Banbury Cake

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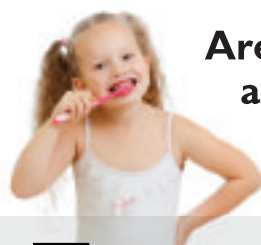
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Pledge over living wage

CHERWELL District Council has agreed to give its lowest paid workers a "living wage".

Staff will get at least £7.45-an-hour under the scheme, part of a national campaign.

The council said the measure would cost less than an extra £2,400 a year.



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InBRIEF

Fire closes a lane of M40

■ **N OXON:** One lane of the southbound M40 was closed for about two hours on Friday after a BMW caught fire.

Firefighters and police officers were called to the incident between junctions 11 for Banbury and 10 for Ardley at around 8am.

Both the hard shoulder and the first lane of the motorway were closed until 10am.

The fire was put out and no injuries were reported.

Burglars flee with nothing

■ **BANBURY:** An attempted break-in occurred at home in Prescott Avenue, Bretch Hill, overnight between February 20-21.

Burglars tried to break in, but fled before anything was taken.

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 101.

Solar farm application

■ **BLOXHAM:** A solar farm could be built at Rickfield Farm, South Newington Road. A screening option planning application has been sent to Cherwell District Council by ABDS Ltd.

Art centre's bar is aiming to be the star of the show

BANBURY'S The Mill Arts Centre, pictured, has been entered into the North Oxfordshire Pub of the Year contest.

Members of the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) voted the centre's Millstream Bar into the contest along with five other watering holes.

They found it had "a consistently

good selection of cask ales, in good condition and served by staff who know the beers well".

The other finalists are The Bell, Lower Heyford; The Crown Inn, Church Enstone; The Rose and Crown, Charlbury; The Tite Inn, Chadlington, and The Chequers, Chipping Norton.

Branch members score the brews on quality, choice and staff knowl-

edge during visits to pubs. The winner will be announced on Saturday, March 16, at The Bell, in Grimsbury, Banbury.

The winner will go on to the regional final.



Man denies charges over confrontation

Court is told of petrol bombing

By Joe Nimmo

A MAN threw a petrol bomb at the family home of his girlfriend, a court heard on Monday.

Yisa Hassan-Sule, 28, of Broughton Close, Banbury, denies a charge of attempting to cause grievous bodily harm with intent.

He is also accused of affray following an incident alleged to have taken place on December 3, 2011.

Nigel Daly, prosecuting, said Hassan-Sule pursued his then-girlfriend Alice Greatbatch to her father's home in Balmoral Avenue after an argument.

He told a jury at Oxford Crown

Court that following a confrontation with her family, the defendant returned with a petrol bomb.

Mr Daly said: "When he returned they noticed that there seemed to be flames inside the car, and when he got out he had a bottle in his hand."

"The bottle contained petrol and had a wick in the top which had been lit. It was a petrol bomb, a Molotov cocktail is one way of describing it."

"If it had not gone out when it was thrown, as it did in this case, it could

have had a devastating effect."

He added that the bottle smashed against an outside wall and the family retreated inside the house, except for Hassan-Sule's ex-girlfriend who drove away with him.

Miss Greatbatch told the jury her former partner had become "physical" following an argument earlier that day.

She said this prompted her father James Greatbatch to punch him in the face and call him a "black monkey" when he arrived in Balmoral Avenue.

Hassan-Sule was released on bail and the trial continues.

Beef taken off menu as a precaution

ALL beef has been taken off the menus at Oxfordshire's schools while independent testing is carried out on lunchtime meals to make sure they do not contain horsemeat.

Carillion Plc, which serves Oxfordshire's school and hospital meals service, has revealed that it has sent samples of meat products

from its local and national suppliers for independent DNA analysis.

Recently the company, which took over the contract for supplying primary and secondary school meals when it was outsourced by Oxfordshire County Council in July, offered "solid reassurance" that its food had not been contaminated.

But last week a spokesman said: "Due to the ongoing concern surrounding horsemeat contamination we recognise that many parents would simply prefer their children not to eat beef at the moment."

"We have therefore taken the precautionary decision to remove all beef from our lunchtime menus."



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Jailed over images of child abuse

A MAN who distributed hundreds of images of child abuse has been jailed.

Christopher Lines, of Grimsbury Drive, Banbury, was handed a one-year prison sentence at Oxford Crown Court on Thursday.

The 39-year-old admitted 18 counts of distributing indecent images, three counts of incitement to distribute indecent images, and 16 counts of making indecent images.

The court heard that more than 100 of the most extreme 'level five' images had been downloaded on to his laptop and home computer in 2004 and 2006.

Lines was arrested in 2010 but, because of delays in processing evidence, the case took longer than usual to come to trial.

Judge Patrick Eccles said sharing the images with other people on the internet was treated very seriously.

He said: "Anybody who distributes images like this increases the number of such images in circulation and increases the market for them."

By Joe Nimmo

"This increases the risk that young boys and girls will be exploited."

Tony McGeorge, defending, said the amount of time taken to bring the case to trial should reduce the sentence given to his client.

Judge Eccles agreed, but added that such delays were common in case where computers needed to be analysed.

He said: "These are offences which are committed in secret and sometimes they are not detected until a long time after someone has committed them."

"There has been such a delay to this case as to make a difference to the sentencing outcome. There was more delay than was acceptable."

"Sadly it is the case now, because of the amount of these crimes being committed, that the resources are being stretched. There are just too many computers being analysed by too few officers."



Sporting prize for young Rory

OXFORD United chairman Ian Lenagan and player Jon-Paul Pitman are pictured giving Rory Shadbolt his award as winner of the sports prize at the Oxfordshire Youth Awards 2013.

More than 300 young people attended the ceremony and were joined by a further 300 friends and family.

Rory, 15, from Chipping Norton – described as a dedicated, passionate sportsman in his chosen sport of skater hockey and other winners collected their prizes from top VIPs including Supergrass frontman GPs Cooles and author Philip Pullman, as well as the Oxford United contingent.

InBRIEF

Drug factory conviction

BANBURY: A former antique dealer has been convicted of running a cannabis factory.

Leslie Ballard, of Broughton Road, was convicted at Oxford Crown Court on Friday of producing a Class-B drug.

Thirty-nine-year-old Gulfam Yousaf, of Chestnut Road, Birmingham, and 35-year-old Zafar Iqbal, of Church Road, Birmingham, were both acquitted of the same charges.

The court heard how 87 cannabis plants were discovered on the first and second floors of a building in Pepper Alley, Banbury, on Sunday, April 24, 2011.

Ballard, 59, was remanded in custody and will be sentenced during the week beginning March 18.

Police around to hear fears

BANBURY: The police team which covers the town will be on hand to chat to residents about concerns this week week. Thames Valley Police officers will be at St Leonard's Community Hall, Middleton Road, tomorrow from 5pm to 6pm.

NHS Continuing Healthcare

Deadlines for assessment of eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare funding for cases during the period 1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012

On 15 March 2012, the Department of Health announced the introduction of deadlines for new cases which require assessment of eligibility for NHS Continuing Healthcare (NHS CHC) funding.

NHS CHC is care provided over an extended period of time to meet health needs that have arisen as a result of disability, accident or illness. NHS CHC funding is only provided where an individual has a primary health need and requires long term healthcare, as opposed to social or residential care.

The deadlines apply to previously un-assessed periods of care, which occurred in the following time periods:

Time Period	Deadline
1 April 2011 – 31 March 2012	31 March 2013

The deadline for the time period from 1 April 2004 – 31 March 2011 was 30 September 2012 and is now closed.

Individuals should contact the Continuing Healthcare Team at NHS Oxfordshire for further information on how to notify NHS Oxfordshire of a request for assessment of eligibility. This notification should be given within the deadlines above. Some cases may be accepted after the dates outlined above, but only if there are exceptional circumstances for doing so.

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Cloudy2Clear Windows – Service With A Smile!

It's been a crazy few months for Cloudy2Clear Windows. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes – not the frames has grown rapidly as homeowners take advantage of their services.

Managing Director Trevor Skidmore feels that it's all about service. "Our product is simple. If your double glazing is misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 5 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although

that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done. We make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. I often get comments back from customers on how they really didn't expect that sort of service which, in a way, is very sad for the service industry as a whole.

Cloudy2Clear service the Oxford, Banbury & Abingdon areas and Trevor is finding that his approach is a major factor

in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show

how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Trevor a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!



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InBRIEF

Suspicious activity alert

N OXON: Police have warned car owners in Clifton to be on their guard following an instance of suspicious activity.

A resident contacted Thames Valley Police on Friday, February 22, to report a white male in a builder's jacket inside a white Mercedes truck who was spotted looking inside cars near Main Road at 1.45am.

Cherwell police and community relations officer Michelle Miller said a series of catalytic converters had been reported stolen in the area and advised residents to report any unusual behaviour on 101.

Council home target missed

N OXON: A target to get 500 new homes built in the 12 months to March 31 is to be missed.

Cherwell District Council said 121 had been built by November against its "ambitious" target of 500.

The "current economic climate" had to be taken into account, it said, but schemes like more than 1,000 homes at Bankside, off Oxford Road, Banbury, are to come.

HMV store is spared axe

BANBURY: The town's branch of HMV has escaped the latest round of store closures.

Administrators Deloitte announced 37 closures in the next six weeks including High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire and Staines, Berkshire.

A further 66 closures were announced on February 7.

Leisure: P13-15

Health trust is accused of a lack of transparency

Maternity unit closure goes on

By Tom Jennings

HEALTH bosses have been accused of a "lack of transparency" over a closed maternity unit in Chipping Norton.

Four months after births were suspended at the Cotswold Maternity Unit, bosses still cannot say when it will reopen or exactly what closed it.

Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust was quizzed during an update to the county's joint health overview and scrutiny committee last week.

The unit was closed in October and the trust launched a review after concerns were raised about a high number of transfer rates to other hospitals.

Following the closure, an online petition claimed two midwives had been suspended from the unit after raising concerns about work practices and safety.

Hilary Biles, county councillor for Chipping Norton, said: "We do not feel a great deal of transparency with this issue."

"I just want an end date with some consultation about what is going to happen."

She added: "If there had been good management in place when these issues were raised by these two midwives, I do not think we would be in this situation."

"The lack of management at that level was then transferred up the ladder and I think the management further up was remiss in handling this."

Mum Kate Barlow, who had four births at the unit, said: "I want reassurances that the review will look into the failings of the management teams in the trust that allowed this to happen."

"Taxpayers' money has been invested in this fantastic facility and it is not being used. We are being denied our right."

County councillor Jenny Hannaby said: "This is like something out of a BBC drama."

"I really cannot understand why you could



Councillor Hilary Biles outside Chipping Norton Hospital's Maternity Unit

not have put a team in place in the unit, like they do in schools, to keep it open while you do the review."

The trust's director of planning and information, Andrew Stevens, said: "There were concerns raised by parents and staff and others about the unit, that was coupled with the fact the transfer rate from the unit was above what would be expected for such a unit."

"The reasons beyond this are complex, but are covered by the culture of the unit, the unit's operation and management issues. The team was not operating the unit as a cohesive team. We felt it was too complex a situation to change by simply a change of personnel."

"Given the issues raised, we needed to

undertake a thorough review and the best way to address the issues was to suspend births."

He said the completed review would be taken to the trust's board on March 13 and would recommend reopening the unit.

But he added: "I cannot say when it will open because it depends on the recommendations."

Mr Stevens also said the full review would address why the problems had not been sorted out at an earlier stage by managers.

Head of midwifery Jane Herve said: "We remain totally committed to reopening the Cotswold Maternity Unit to births as soon as we are able to."

Dogs for Disabled help pair find love

TWO assistance dogs from Banbury have been nominated for a special award at this year's Crufts after helping their owners fall in love with each other.

Sue and Byron Harvey, from Thame, met because they each owned one of a set of twin dogs - Isis and Inka.

The couple began to meet up "to see which dog was doing better" and though Inka died just 10 days after being given to Mrs Harvey, the seeds of love were sown.

Mrs Harvey, 63, uses a wheelchair and has a disability caused by several life-threatening conditions including spinal surgery, a brain tumour and double bilateral mastectomies leading to spinal bacterial meningitis.

She had divorced her husband and moved into a bungalow on her own when her son put her in touch with Banbury-based charity Dogs for the Disabled because she was struggling to cope.

It was then that she was given Inka and she met Mr Harvey, 60, whose wife Jill died shortly afterwards.

Mr Harvey, who also uses a wheelchair after suffering from polio as a young boy, said: "Sue was there to support me day and night. That turned into love and we got married nearly five years ago."

Isis, who has since retired, still lives with the couple and their new assistance dogs, Max and Ziggy, who they credit with helping to cement their relationship.

Max and Ziggy have been nominated for the Friends for Life award at Crufts, which runs from March 7-10.

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County councillors' decision as May elections loom

Civic heavyweights plan to step down

By Freddie Whittaker

A NUMBER of local political figures will walk away from life at County Hall this year after decades of service.

Among the county councillors standing down, ahead of the county council election in May, are former leader Keith Mitchell, and fellow Tories Charles Shouler and Ray Jelf.

Mr Mitchell said: "Serving as leader of the council for ten-and-a-half years was the pinnacle and the best job I have ever had — so far.

"I provided the council with something it had lacked as a hung council — leadership.

"Like me or loathe me, I changed Oxfordshire County Council fundamentally and, I believe, for the better.

"I stood down as leader because I thought a decade was about the right time. Many



LEFT:
Keith
Mitchell



RIGHT:
Charles
Shouler



RIGHT:
Ray Jelf

leaders stay too long.

"I am standing down as a county councillor because a quarter century is enough and, after the big job, it is less fun.

"In any case, I engineered the dismemberment of my county division when I persuaded the council to reduce the number of elected members as a financial saving."

He added: "I have another big job inside me if one comes along. I would like to continue a political career. I am too old, in my party's view, to be an MP, so would have to look elsewhere. In the meantime, I

will see if I can increase my blogging activity and take on some of the lefties who are trying to persuade us that you can trust Blair and Brown's party with the economy.

"After all, I have always enjoyed a good joke."

Mr Shouler said: "I was in the cabinet from 2005, when the Conservatives got an overall majority, until 2009 when I became ill.

"Then I got ill again last year, so it's really dogged my last few years.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on the council. I was

council chairman for two years from 2001 to 2003, and going out, in a civic sense, and meeting and greeting the people of Oxfordshire was a great job."

He said he had contracted lymphoma in 2005, and the disease went into remission, but the illness returned last year.

Mr Jelf said: "I've had a wonderful time and have built up a fantastic relationship with the ten parish councils in my area."

He refused to say why he was standing down.

InCOURT

■ **ANDREW BATTEN**, 29, of Harlech Close, Banbury, admitted shoplifting two bottles of wine worth £15 from Tesco in Banbury on November 16. Also admitted shoplifting three bottles of spirits worth £27.50 from Marks & Spencer in Bridge Street, Banbury, on November 15. Sent to prison for eight weeks.

■ **EDWARD KIRBY**, 27, of no fixed address, admitted using threatening, abusive, or insulting words or behaviour with intent to cause harassment, alarm or distress, in Banbury on February 3. Fined £150, £50 victims' surcharge, and £85 costs.

■ **PAUL BRAND**, 33, of Broughton Road, Banbury, admitted two counts of assault by beating in Banbury on November 2. Community order made with alcohol-related aggression course requirement for ten days and supervision requirement for 12 months. Told to pay £500 compensation £60 victims' surcharge and £85 costs.

■ **WILLIAM GRIFFITHS**, 26, of Marlborough Road, Banbury, admitted drink-driving in Southam Road, Banbury, on October 13. Had 88mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, above the legal limit of 35mg. Also admitted aggravated vehicle taking in Victoria Place, Banbury, driving without

insurance and driving dangerously on Southam Road, Banbury, on October 13. Sent to prison for 26 weeks and banned from driving for 18 months.

■ **IAN MCCOY**, 35, of Albert Street, Banbury, admitted stealing a Blackberry mobile phone worth £200 at The Moon and Sixpence pub in Hanwell, on April 20. Given a six-month conditional discharge, told to pay £200 compensation and £85 costs.

■ **HARWINDER SANGHA**, 41, of Gatteridge Street, Banbury, admitted shoplifting four cans of Stella lager worth £4.99 from One Star Supermarket in Horse Fair, Banbury, on January 11. Also stole four cans of Stella lager worth £6.09 from the store on January 10 and four cans of Stella worth £6.60 from the shop on January 2. Given a 12-month conditional discharge, told to pay compensation of £12.69, a £15 victims' surcharge, and £25 costs.

■ **ANTHONY WINFIELD**, 47, of Balmoral Avenue, Banbury, admitted drink-driving in Calthorpe Street, Banbury, on November 29. Had 109mg of alcohol in 100ml of breath, above the legal limit of 35mg. Community order made with alcohol treatment and supervision requirements. Told to pay a £60 victims' surcharge and £85 costs. Banned from driving for 24 months.

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Visit Oxfordshire director
Susi Golding

County's attractions help boost growing tourism

BICESTER Village, together with *Downton Abbey* and Oxford University, have all helped add millions of pounds to Oxfordshire's tourism income.

New Tourism South East data shows that the county saw cash from tourist spending increase from £1.5bn in 2007 to £1.7bn in 2011.

Visit Oxfordshire director Susi Golding said: "The new figures show Oxfordshire is a fantastic place to visit.

"Many UK residents are holidaying at home because of the recession. And the country attracts many overseas visitors because there is a

good exchange rate." She said attractions, such as Bicester Village, Oxford's historic buildings and universities, and film locations such as Blenheim Palace and Bampton, where ITV period drama *Downton Abbey* is filmed, have all helped boost the county's tourism.

Witney chamber of commerce chairman Lesley Semaine said *Downton Abbey*, along with Oxfordshire MP David Cameron becoming Prime Minister, had all helped put the county on the map for tourists.

She said: "It certainly has not done our area any harm and I am sure it

has done us a lot of good."

Ms Semaine added: "We are in one of the most attractive parts of the country and have so many attractions.

"The Cotswolds and places like Blenheim Palace bring so many tourists in and that encourages all the surrounding villages and towns.

"It is circular and it benefits everybody."

Blenheim Palace spokesman Hannah Payne said: "We are proud to be part of the thriving tourism trend in our region and we certainly hope to see this trend continue following the hugely positive public relations surrounding the UK during the

London 2012 Olympics, and the increase of international visitors expected in 2013 and beyond."

District councillor Richard Langridge said: "We cannot say enough how important tourism is to our local economy. The latest figures from Tourism South East emphasises this even further.

"The last few years have been tough for all local businesses and not least tourism businesses, and those involved in the industry should feel very proud that the study has found that we are continuing to do well during ongoing, difficult economic times."

Air charities in dogfight

Emergency copter charity in claims of 'confusion'

By Mark Taylor

AN air ambulance charity has been accused of confusing local people over its purpose.

The Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance (TVCAA) has said it is concerned a new service, set up for children, does not make it clear that it is not a medical emergency helicopter service.

The Coventry-based Children's Air Ambulance is used for pre-booked transfers between hospitals only – and does make any emergency flights.

This service was launched in West Oxfordshire in November as a charity service for youngsters but, as yet, has not carried any patients.

TVCAA has said it is worried it could lose out on local funds, as some donors may believe they are giving to an emergency children's service.

The chief executive of Thames Valley and Chiltern Air Ambulance Trust, Yusuf Firat, said: "We are concerned that confusion over what the Children's Air Ambulance does, may lead to public donations going to a cause that is not an emergency service but for a paediatric retrieval service already carried out.

"The Children's Air Ambulance will create a duplication of the service offered by the existing local air ambulance services and cause confusion for the well-wishing members of the public."

However, Charlotte Parker, spokesman for the Children's Air Ambulance, said there was no confusion and the two helicopter charities were very different.

She said: "This service is one of a kind; unlike other air ambulances it will not be a helicopter emergency medical service which attend rescues – such as road crashes and equestrian accidents – but will instead be dedicated to providing emergency transfers for children already in hospital suffering from illnesses such as meningitis, severe burns or organ failure and in need of urgent and lifesaving care."

She said the service hoped to begin carrying sick children later this spring.

Since the start of 2012, TVCAA has carried out about 800 life-saving helicopter emergency missions and 20 hospital transfers.

Of these, 18 were helicopter emergency missions airlifting children and they were tasked to undertake two paediatric hospital transfers.

Each mission costs the service, which covers Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, more than £2,000, with about three deployments a day.

Its annual running costs total about £3m.



ABOVE:
The newly
launched
Children's
Air
Ambulance



LEFT: The
Thames
Valley and
Chiltern Air
Ambulance

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entry name

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■ Women aged up to 42 may become eligible for IVF programme

Trust urged to extend fertility treatment age

HEALTH bosses in Oxfordshire say they will now consider offering free IVF treatment to women aged over 40.

The move after the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (Nice) issued a recommendation to local NHS trusts that treatment should be offered to eligible women aged up to 42.

Previously, its recommended age limitations were 23 to 39. But campaigners have criticised NHS Oxfordshire's present criteria - which only covers women aged between 30 and 34 inclusive - for being too restrictive.

The Primary Care Trust - which may or may not act on the recommendations from Nice - says IVF is a low priority and unless infertile women are in the 30 to 34 age bracket, they have to prove they are an exceptional case to get funding.

Local patient Claire Cousins

By Emma Harrison

was refused IVF treatment, despite going through the menopause at 24. Now aged 28, she is mum to two-year-old Harry - thanks to private

treatment. She said: "Although Nice has changed its guidelines, it still comes down to the decision of the individual PCTs.

"I think the Oxfordshire PCT needs to let every female have the right to have at least one

treatment." Richard MacKenzie and his wife, Jackie, were also turned down by NHS Oxfordshire for IVF funding because they were too young.

Mr MacKenzie, who launched a campaign against NHS Oxfordshire in 2009 claiming "age discrimination", now has a son, Bob, thanks to help from a private clinic.

He said the present criteria was still too restrictive for Oxfordshire residents and added: "The fact still remains that we fare much worse in this postcode lottery against many other counties when it comes to funding IVF."

A full cycle of IVF can cost the NHS about £3,000.

Tim Child, consultant gynaecologist and director of the Oxford Fertility Unit, who helped develop the latest guidelines, said improvements in IVF success rates and more cost-effective treatment, had led to the revision.

Of the criteria set by NHS

Oxfordshire, he added: "This is unfair for the patients and causes a huge amount of distress.

"I understand it is difficult for PCTs, or the clinical commissioning groups they will become, to take these decisions but I would really call for implementation if at all possible."

NHS Oxfordshire spokesman Richard McCrann said: "The revised Nice guidelines on assisted conception have not yet been officially published and will be considered by commissioners."

The new guidelines also recommend IVF treatment for eligible women who have been unable to conceive after two years of regular intercourse. This is one year earlier than previously recommended.

Women who have been having artificial insemination, which can include same-sex couples, are covered by the guidelines for the first time.



Dr Tim Child, who has helped develop new NICE guidelines for IVF

OX57483

InBRIEF

MP's greeting for new Bill

■ THE forthcoming passage of a new law aimed at tackling scrap-metal theft, has been welcomed by Banbury MP Sir Tony Baldry.

Sir Tony, who represents the Church of England in the Commons, said the measures would

combat thefts from churches, war memorials and railways.

The Scrap Metal Dealers

Bill, which has cleared the House of Lords, will require dealers to obtain licences and give police and councils powers to shut down unlicensed dealers.

The Bill has now gone for Royal Assent.



Sir Tony Baldry

Local surgery

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■ Savings towards a £46m target and a two per cent council tax rise are approved

County's budget cuts are revealed

OXFORDSHIRE County Council has approved plans to cut £46m from its budget by 2017, including £18.4m from adult social care budgets.

A council tax rise of two per cent – below inflation – was also approved at County Hall, when councillors also rubber-stamped new day-time parking charges at Thornhill and Water Eaton park and ride facilities.

Council leader Ian Hudspeth said: "I believe we have a budget that balances the need to protect the most needy and vulnerable in the county, with our ambition to see Oxfordshire continue to thrive through hard work and economic growth."

The savings come in the wake of lower-than-expected grants from central Government, and services are likely to pay the price.

Despite the swingeing cuts to council coffers, the decisions didn't all spell bad news.

County council leader Ian Hudspeth used his speech on the budget to announce £50,000 from reserves would be spent on developing an oyster-style payment system for county transport methods. He also said the council would spend £100,000 on growth in the county

By Freddie Whittaker

and would re-establish the "big society" fund, a £10,000 pot given to each councillor to pay for community projects.

He said: "I am pleased to announce one-off funding to come from the efficiency reserve in 2013/14 so that we can develop improved and joined-up technical solutions to paying for journeys across Oxfordshire and beyond."

"As part of our commitment to economic growth, we have allocated £100,000 for the next three years to increase the county

council's capacity to pursue growth opportunities with our partners in the public and private sector."

But he did not explain exactly how the cash would be spent.

At the County Hall budget meeting, Green group leader Larry Sanders had tried to make the case for a referendum on a 3.75 per cent rise to avoid the social care cuts.

He said: "This rise represents a rise of £1.70 a month, 40p a week. How many people in this county are stupid enough to say 'no, we would rather not have a decent care structure'."

Lib Dem leader Zoe Patrick used her party's amended budget to try to pump £2m more into social care and more than £2m more into children's services budgets.

Labour did not propose any specific amendments, but called on the council to write to Communities Secretary Eric Pickles to protest against Government grant cuts.

Group leader Liz Brighouse said: "Since 2010 it has become clear for all to see that the Lib Dem/Tory Government's financial plan has not worked."



County council leader Ian Hudspeth

HOW THE AXE WILL FALL

County council	
Total annual budget: £908m	● Children's Services £3.4m
Savings at a glance (2013-2017):	● Adult Services £18.5m
● Strategy and partnerships £6m	● Safer & Stronger Communities £80,000
● Growth and infrastructure £4m	● Corporate £14.2m
	Total savings: Approx £46m
	County council reduction in Government grant: 12 per cent

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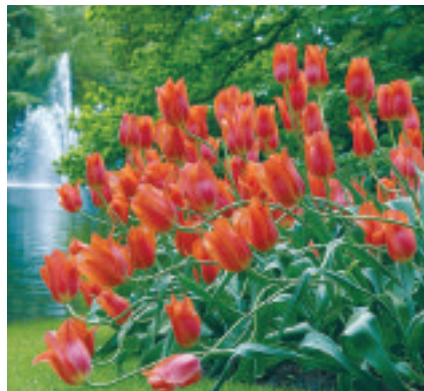
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A number of people who had tried my variety of Caribbean dishes clamoured for me to start up the food business and provide Jamaican food for the Banbury community.

Exited by the prospect of serving Caribbean food here and also being the

only one in the community providing this take away service I applied with Cherwell council to get my food safety certificates.

I achieved that together with a 5 star rating for food hygiene from Cherwell council within 1 month.

Being the only one cooking the meals deserts and special drinks here mean I can only provide a take away service from home on a collection basis only for the time being.

A number of families are now collecting their desired Caribbean meals from me on a regular basis and they enjoy the banter and home cooked healthy food I provide for the community.

Meal treats include: Jerk chicken, curry goat, snappa, hake fish all with rice and peas, chicken soup with veg, sweet potato, dumplings.

Other treats include fried dumplings, plantain, green banana, peanut punch, calaloo, cabbage with peppers.

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Acting journey's rollercoaster

As celebrity endorsements go, it's really not a bad one. George Dillon's solo show was described as "brutal, compassionate, brilliant. Examines the actor's soul with a precision that is acutely painful and appallingly funny!" by no less than Richard E Grant.

George, an accomplished actor, given a perfect accolade by his mentor, the theatrical legend Steven Berkoff, performs a stunning one-man show at The Mill Theatre, Banbury next month.

George Dillon's solo staging of *Graft* – *Tales of an Actor*, Berkoff's collection of short stories, is described as a unique masterclass. Berkoff himself said of this hugely talented thespian: "The best example of how to perform is George Dillon".

Graft – a must for students and all theatre-goers – goes on stage at The Mill on Wednesday, March 13, and there will be a post-show discussion with the actor.

In the production, Dillon takes Berkoff's 11 short stories and performs them as a series of scenes from an actor's life.

"The eye Berkoff casts on an actor's life is very astute. He shows not the glamorous view but the reality of being unemployed most of the time, being turned down at auditions, the low self-esteem and the desperation to find something to fulfil one's ambitions," said Dillon.

"But it is also about finding, just about, that Big One, the dream role that

makes it all worthwhile, where the body, spirit and heart are completely absorbed."

Graft takes the audience from the first audition for drama school to the final curtain call at Leicester Square, exposing the reality and questioning the sacrifice.

Dillon says that over his 146 performances of *Graft* – one of three one-man shows in his repertoire – he has seen people who 'do not like theatre' blown away. "It is a very rewarding style of performance. All kinds of people are mesmerised. Older theatre-goers also get a lot out of

it; they tend to understand the second half better than others with the reflection on life being one of the most powerful aspects. They



understand the sacrifices made through their lives to try to realise a dream they may not have realised."

George Dillon first acted in a student production of Berkoff's *East* nearly thirty years ago and has since worked with the writer, actor and director on five productions and has produced and starred in another eight with his own company, Vital Theatre, including three world premieres.

Graft won Dillon a Herald Angel Award at the Edinburgh Festival in 2000 and a nomination for *The Stage's* Best Actor award. The show has since been seen in more than ten countries.

Talon have a huge following in Banbury, having originally made its reputation as the UK's premier Eagles tribute band.

But over the years the group have added to their astonishing repertoire and tour with an expanded range of music.

Tomorrow (Friday), they return to one of their favourite stages at The Mill, Banbury with their popular show, *Talon The Acoustic Collection: Up Close and Personal*.

This entertaining concert features music from the catalogues of Cat Stevens, Simon and Garfunkel, James Taylor, Crosby Stills and Nash, John Denver, Michael Jackson and many more. The acoustic band is headed by the charismatic frontman, the 'Silver Fox' Chris Lloyd. Talon promise to delight the audience with their brilliant harmonies and incredible musical ability, with several doubling up on instruments.

■ **Talon: The Acoustic Collection: Up Close and Personal, Friday 8pm, £16. Call 01295 279002.**



POPULAR: Talon and, left, George Dillon, both perform at The Mill

More bang(er) for your buck

Harry Hill's first live outing in six years, *Sausage Time*, calls at Northampton's Royal & Derngate on Thursday, March 7, promising a night of inspired lunacy with guests, music...and a giant sausage. The big-collared

comedy genius is back with a show that promises incontrovertible proof God exists. ■ Harry Hill's *Sausage Time* is at Royal & Derngate on Thursday, 8pm. Call 01604 624811 or visit royalandderngate.co.uk

One of the world's top flamenco guitarists Juan Martín returns to The Theatre, Chipping Norton, on Saturday (March 2). Juan will perform his own compositions, with a line-up of musicians and flamenco dancers.

Martin's ensemble is at the vanguard of modern flamenco, with a unique style that embraces classical, jazz and modern harmonies while upholding the flamenco tradition. and dazzling displays of dance

■ Tickets £13/£15. Call the box

office on 01608 642350 or visit chippingnortontheatre.com

Do not miss the **Charity** Casino Night this Saturday at The Social Club, Worton Road, Middle Barton.

The evening has been set up to raise money for the family of Lily Ilt, who is six and has spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 2. Lily's wheelchair, donated by Whizz Kids, is coming to the end of its life and Lily needs a new one – at a cost of up to £17,000.

Banbury Lions are supporting this event by turning croupier and there will be a raffle and auction.

Tickets for the show, which starts at 7.30pm, are £10 per person and includes a bowl of chilli. Tickets from the social club or Middle Barton stores or email jojo.lilyismum@hotmail.com

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CHICKEN or LAMB Pitta Bread.....	£3.50
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CHICKEN or LAMB Wrap with CHIPS.....	£3.00
Served in a tray with Salad and Sauce	

BURGERS

Quarter Pounder in a bun.....	£3.00
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Cheese Burger	£3.00
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Chicken Burger	£3.00
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SPONTANEOUS Upfront Witney lady, 37, 5'6", blonde, long-hair, enjoys 10-12, part-time, cinema, naps, shopping, looking for a traditional gent, 35+. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 131986

THOUGHTFUL LASTING HAPPINESS Thoughtful Oxford female, 42, 5', medium-build, fair-hair, blue-eyes, smoker, likes swimming, holidays, pubs and meals out, seeks a genuine male. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122427

ENJOY AND SHARE LIFE Attractive Melksham lady, 45, 5'5", blonde hair/green eyes, loves the outdoors, travel, animals, family life, seeking a genuine guy, 40-50, for true romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138266 or send a text to 80360

OF A GENUINE DESCRIPTION Laid-back Swindon female, 46, still looking for my Mr Right, to share and enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126129

IT COULD BE US Spiritual, genuine Didcot woman, 46, attractive, fun, have grown up children, likes clubs, cafes, music, films, walking and reading, seeking a caring and optimistic man, for friendship first. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 132828 or send a text to 80360

A FRESH START Happy lady, 47, simply searching for an efficient, confident gent, for fun and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 139000 or send a text to 80360

SMOOTH MOVE Slim, blue-eyed Trowbridge female, 48, 5'2", GSOH, easy to get on with, enjoys nights out, walks and more, searching for an honest, active, interesting man. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 109958 or send a text to 80360

RIGHT HERE WAITING Quiet, rational and sincere Wallingford widow, 48, 5'5", would like a date with an aware, intuitive gent, for happiness, love and laughter. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 136967 or send a text to 80360

LOST FOR WORDS Swindon girl, 49, enjoys socialising, skiing, badminton and more, searching for a down to earth man. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 108304

LOVE THE COMPANY Hard-working, fun and very loving Swindon female, 50, 5'2", blonde, medium-build, would like to meet a man, with similar personality and interests, for friendship, company and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137997

GIVE IT A WHIRL Sincere Witney female, 50, own flat & car, enjoys walks, cinema, cycling, pubs, meals out, seeking a nice guy, to share good times with and hopefully romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138872 or send a text to 80360

START LIVING AGAIN Friendly, fun Oxfordshire divorced mum, 53, 5'7", grown up children, looking for love again and someone to share life with. Is the right man there for me? Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 198804

VA VA VOOM Positive, lovely and kind-hearted woman, ##Age#, would like to meet a vivacious, self-assured male, for love and an honest future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135156

RESTORE MY FAITH Family orientated, honest, trustworthy and caring Oxford mum, 53, looking for a genuine sincere guy, with a good sense of humour, to share good times with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116101

SOMEONE EXACTLY LIKE YOU Caring, lovely, bubbly Bicester lady, 53, looking for a tall, kind, caring and romantic man for a lasting loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 118921 or send a text to 80360

TO THE FUTURE Flexible, life-loving, optimistic, divorced Abingdon lady, 53, 5'7", non-smoker, wants to meet a feisty, adventurous gentleman, 44-54 for friendship, hopefully leading to committed relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138484

A NEW LIFE Truthful, gracious and protective Wallingford girl, 54, 5'8", looking to find a truthful, sophisticated gent, to share and enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137082

SIMPLE TASTES Open, honest Bampton female, 55, enjoys country walks, gardening, swimming, theatre, travelling, would like to meet that special man, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 136810 or send a text to 80360

THAT SPECIAL PERSON Honest, bubbly female, 55, kind, loving, seeks 6ft+ male, for romance, companionship & lots more. Bicester. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110670

CHATTS OVER A PINT? Country woman looking to meet a loving, dark haired, slim man, I'm 64yrs old, 5'7", slim and fit, love being outdoors, walking and gardening. Marlborough/Wiltshire Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 122241 or send a text to 80360

THE BETTER THINGS IN LIFE Divorced Swindon female, 65, 5'5", works part-time, likes walking, travelling and cooking, would like to meet a nice sociable gent with a good lifestyle, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114628

HONEST RELATIONSHIP Non-smoking Bradford lady, 65, 5'5", slim-build, blue-eyes with a positive outlook, enjoy countryside, dancing, music, theatre, seeking a gent, 63-68, to enjoy similar interest. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 128404 or send a text to 80360

HAPPIER DAYS Kind-hearted, homely and sensitive Didcot woman, 70, would like a date with a friendly, kind-hearted guy, for love and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 136207 or send a text to 80360

ADVENTURE AHEAD Warm, friendly Witney woman, 71, GSOH, youthful, attractive, likes dancing, walking, music, theatre, reading and meals out, seeking a tall, active and fun gentleman, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 123234

THE LONG TERM Separated, easygoing Oxon female, 60, likes cooking, evenings in/out and much more, seeks friendly male, to enjoy life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 100451

LOVE IS FOR SHARING Easygoing, sincere Trowbridge lady, 60, med build 5'6", GSOH, N/5, enjoys good social life, darts, music, walking & reading, searching for that special guy, N/5 and caring for dates & more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 116161

GENUINE AND CARING Oxfordshire widow, 61, 5'6", slender build, sociable, caring and well-travelled, searching for a genuine, professional guy, non-smoker, for friendship, maybe lasting love. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 466487

THE BEST OF ME Independent, honest and open Witney lady, 61, 5'6", likes cinema, dining out, motor sports, family life, wants to meet a practical, instinctive gent, for friendship and a fresh start in life. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138781 or send a text to 80360

FRIENDSHIP, MAYBE MORE... Sociable, active Witney woman, 63, GSOH, widow, attractive, likes meeting people, theatre, drinks, meals out and walking, seeking a similar man, caring and genuine, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 127066

COME CLOSER Active, kind-hearted and upbeat Oxford bloke, 46, looking for a fun and insightful, liberal woman, to find and maybe a little romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 130080

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL Kind, caring, down-to-earth Thame male, 46, enjoys music, country walks, cooking, reading, films, seeking a kind, sincere, slim female, 25+. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137427 or send a text to 80360

A LIFE CHANGING MOMENT Friendly Banbury male, 48, likes meals out, walks, animals, socialising, with a honest woman, for company and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138929

GET TO THE GOOD TIMES Separated, laid-back Bicester guy, 50, 5'10", brown hair/blue eyes, decent build, self-employed, looking for an attractive woman. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 136282 or send a text to 80360

LOVE TO HAVE A LAUGH Hardworking Oxford male, 50, 5'7", brown hair, own flat, likes socialising, cooking, nights in, seeks nice young lady for friendship leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 121027 or send a text to 80360

TIME FOR A CHANGE Friendly, expressive and vibrant Kidlington male, 51, would like to meet a life-loving, interesting lady, to share the future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114479

ACCEPT EACH OTHER Easygoing, single Oxford male, 51, own car, works full-time, likes most sports, would like to meet an outgoing female, for good times leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135164 or send a text to 80360

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NOT TO BE MISSED Spontaneous, caring, hard-working Oxford guy, 54, likes music, cooking, live bands, good wine and F1, would like to meet a simple woman, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115775 or send a text to 80360

LET'S DO IT Upbeat, friendly man, 54, good sense of humour, into male things, travelling, food, meets for love and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110840

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PASSION FLOWER Young-looking Oxford 59yr old chap, 5'9", dark hair, enjoys cinema, bowling, darts out and socialising, seeks loving, loyal female, for lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360

CONFIDENTLY YOURS Widowed chap, 60, 5'10", own home/business, Witney based, enjoys music, country walks, pubs, fishing, gardening, seeks outgoing female, to enjoy life again. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 107964

LOVING LIFE Loyal, solvent North Oxfordshire gent, 66, 5'9", loves soul and motown music, coffee and theatre, searching for an attractive, interesting lady, 50-65, to share and explore interesting times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104998

A FRIEND INDEED Semi-retired Oxford male, 66, 6', slim-build, likes playing bowls, home life, seeking an easygoing female, for good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137842 or send a text to 80360

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JUST AN ORDINARY GUY Kind-hearted, considerate and loving Didcot man, 67, would like a date with an old-fashioned, intuitive lady, for friendship and maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 456285

READY TO MEET MY SOULMATE Outgoing, sociable Oxford male, 41, black, GSOH, caring, enjoys living life to the full and would like to share it with a bubbly, attractive and kind female, for a loving relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 127095

TAKE HANDS Slim, tall Oxfordshire male, 43, N/5, musician and artist, searching for his perfect woman, to make life complete. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 180016

SHARE THE MOMENT Friendly, lovely and sincere Oxford gent, 44, 5'10", wants to meet a homely, sensible woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 134382 or send a text to 80360

ENJOY GOOD COMPANY Honest male, 44, 6'3", stocky build, gosh, enjoys sports, travel, cosy times in, social drinks, seeks fun loving female, for happier times. Oxford. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101716 or send a text to 80360

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TIME FOR A CHANGE Friendly, expressive and vibrant Kidlington male, 51, would like to meet a life-loving, interesting lady, to share the future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 114479

ACCEPT EACH OTHER Easygoing, single Oxford male, 51, own car, works full-time, likes most sports, would like to meet an outgoing female, for good times leading to more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 135164 or send a text to 80360

ETERNAL COMPANIONSHIP Outgoing, divorced Witney male, 52, pubs, meals, nice walks, family life, seeking an interesting woman, to get to know better. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 126741 or send a text to 80360

ALL TO LOVE Kind and caring Oxfordshire male, 52, brown hair, green eyes, GSOH, searching for a nice, genuine girl, for friendship first, then maybe more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 461278

PERFECT COMPANY Practical, original and divorced Oxford based man, 54, 5'10", loyal, into sport, history and much more, would like to find a pensive, kind-hearted female, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137091 or send a text to 80360

NOT TO BE MISSED Spontaneous, caring, hard-working Oxford guy, 54, likes music, cooking, live bands, good wine and F1, would like to meet a simple woman, to share life with. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 115775 or send a text to 80360

LET'S DO IT Upbeat, friendly man, 54, good sense of humour, into male things, travelling, food, meets for love and romance. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 110840

TAKE CHARGE Bright, humorous and optimistic Banbury man, 55, would like a date with a chatty, active woman, for good times and great company. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 138366 or send a text to 80360

A FUTURE FILLED WITH LAUGHTER Divorced, young at heart male, 56, own house in Oxford, likes cinema, theatre and clubs, seeks caring female for happy times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 107632

CARING NATURE Dependable, informed and responsible Witney man, 58, 6'3", looking for a helpful, decent woman, to share a brighter future together. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 111595

SHARING GOOD TIMES Upbeat Burford widower, 58, own cars, works full time, likes days in and out, countryside walks, driving, looking for a similar woman for companionship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 117916 or send a text to 80360

PASSION FLOWER Young-looking Oxford 59yr old chap, 5'9", dark hair, enjoys cinema, bowling, darts out and socialising, seeks loving, loyal female, for lasting relationship. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 101122 or send a text to 80360

CONFIDENTLY YOURS Widowed chap, 60, 5'10", own home/business, Witney based, enjoys music, country walks, pubs, fishing, gardening, seeks outgoing female, to enjoy life again. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 107964

LOVING LIFE Loyal, solvent North Oxfordshire gent, 66, 5'9", loves soul and motown music, coffee and theatre, searching for an attractive, interesting lady, 50-65, to share and explore interesting times. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 104998

A FRIEND INDEED Semi-retired Oxford male, 66, 6', slim-build, likes playing bowls, home life, seeking an easygoing female, for good times and more. Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 137842 or send a text to 80360

LET'S SHARE THE GOOD THINGS Well preserved male, 67, 5'10", adequate intelligence, passably handsome, active, inquisitive, liberal outlook, witty bright, youthful lady for loving relationship and interesting times. Witney Call 0905 005 2359 and enter box number 108871

JUST AN ORDINARY GUY Kind-hearted, considerate and loving Didcot man, 67, would like

Big-name stars shine in multi-layered sci-fi epic

CLOUD ATLAS (12A, 171 mins)
Fantasy/Romance/Sci-Fi/Drama/
Action. Doona Bae, Halle Berry,
James D'Arcy, Hugh Grant, Tom
Hanks, Susan Sarandon, Jim
Sturgess, Hugo Weaving, Ben
Whishaw, Zhou Xun, David Gyasi.
Directors: Lana Wachowski, Andy
Wachowski, Tom Tykwer.

BIG has always been beautiful
to Lana and Andy Wachowski,
writer-directors of the visually
stunning *Matrix* trilogy.

The first instalment of their epic
science-fiction saga pushed the
boundaries of digital trickery and
introduced the slow-motion "bullet
time" effect, which has been copied
countless times.

The Matrix Reloaded and
concluding chapter *The Matrix
Revolutions* married mind-bending
meta-physics with big-budget
spectacle, with varying degrees of
success.

Even when their sprawling vision
tied itself in narrative knots, the
Wachowskis' determination to
expand the horizons of traditional
popcorn fodder was refreshing.

V For Vendetta and a live-action
version of *Speed Racer* were both
visual messes that dazzled the
retina and occasionally fired the
mind.

Bold ambition shimmers in every
frame of *Cloud Atlas*, the siblings'
chronologically-fractured adaptation
of David Mitchell's novel, co-
directed by Tom Tykwer of *Run Lola
Run* fame.

The multi-layered narrative
ricochets between several
timeframes in which a starry cast –
including Halle Berry, James
D'Arcy, Hugh Grant, Tom Hanks,
Susan Sarandon, Jim Sturgess, Hugo
Weaving and Ben Whishaw – adopt
myriad guises with the aid of

prosthetics and, in Hanks's case,
one hilariously strangled accent.

Like the book, the film requires a
certain amount of patience as the
script sets various plot wheels in
motion.

In 1849, lawyer Adam Ewing
(Sturgess) discovers a slave called
Autua (David Gyasi) stowed aboard
a ship bound for America from the
Chatham Islands.

When Adam falls ill, supposedly
as a result of a parasitic worm, Dr
Henry Goose (Hanks) rushes to his
aid.

In 1936 Cambridge, musician
Robert Frobisher (Whishaw) bids
farewell to his lover, Rufus Sixsmith
(D'Arcy), to head to Edinburgh
where he will work alongside
famous composer Vyvyan Ayrs
(Broadbent).

The Scottish air inspires Frobisher
to compose his celebrated *Cloud
Atlas Sextet*.

In 1973 California, crusading
journalist Luisa Rey (Berry) meets
an ageing Rufus in a lift, and is
drawn into a deadly mystery
involving the elderly nuclear
physicist and a hit man called Bill
Smoke (Weaving).

In present-day London, 65-year-
old publisher Timothy Cavendish
(Broadbent) falls victim to a vicious
prank and becomes trapped in a
care home run by the sadistic Nurse
Noakes (Weaving).

In 2144 Neo Seoul, genetically
engineered fast-food worker Sonmi-
451 (Doona Bae) escapes the bonds
of servitude and goes on the run
with rebel Hae-Joo Chang
(Sturgess).

In 2321, Zachry (Hanks) agrees
to help technologically-advanced
visitor Meronym (Berry) head into
the mountains to find the *Cloud
Atlas* communication station.

In the far future, these stories



Tom Hanks, as Zachry, and Halle
Berry, as Meronym, in a scene
from the film *Cloud Atlas*
Picture:
PA Photo/Warner Bros

gradually knit together...

Cloud Atlas shoots for the moon
and narrowly misses.

Production design is jaw-
dropping and the cast give their all.

However, some segments,
including Broadbent's incarceration
in the nursing home, are
superfluous, bloating a languid
three-hour running time that will be
an endurance test too far for some
buttocks.

CakeWhat's on

Music

FRIDAY: Sun Inn, High Street,
Hook Norton: Pete McCray. Free.
9PM. 01608 737570.

SATURDAY: Coach and Horses,
The Green, Banbury:

Resurrection. Rock and pop duo.
Free. 8.30pm. 01295 810422.

General Foods Sports & Social
Club, Spiceball Road,

Banbury: Banbury Soul Club
playing Northern Soul, R&B,
Crossover and Motown. All played
on original vinyl records. Resident
DJ's Charlie MC, Steve Milsom
and Tom H. Plus two special
Guest DJs on the night. Large
sprung wooden dance floor for
those that love to dance and
plenty of seating. 8pm. £5. 07528
285977 and 07943 793417.

The Theatre, Spring Street,
Chipping Norton: Juan Martin
(flamenco guitarist) with Flamenco
dance ensemble. Performs his

own compositions supported by a
line-up of musicians and dancers.
£15, concs £13. 7.45pm. 01608
642350 Mon-Fri 10-6pm, Sat
10am-2pm

Cinema

Odeon, Horsefair, Banbury: *Safe
Haven*, 12A, daily 3.15, 6, 8.45pm,
Sat-Sun 12.30pm. Argo, 15, Mon-
Thu 8.15pm. *Lincoln*, 12A, Fri, Mon-
Thu 5pm. *Wreck-It Ralph*, PG,
daily 2.15pm, Sat-Sun 5.15pm; (3-
D) Sat-Sun 11.45am. *Odeon Kids:*
*The Tinkerbell and the Secret of the
Wings*, U, Sat 10.45am. Senior
Screen: *Pitch Perfect*, 12A, Wed
10.30am. 0871 224 4007
The Theatre, 2 Spring Street,
Chipping Norton: *Lincoln*, 12A,
Mar 10. 01608 642350

Theatre

The Mill Arts Centre, Spiceball

Park, Banbury: Mar 6-9, *An
Inspector Calls*. 7.45pm. Banbury
Cross Players. £8.50. 01295
279002

The Theatre, Spring Street,
Chipping Norton: Mar 1, Lee
Hurst, *Too Scared to Leave the
House* tour. Stand-up comedy.
£15. 7.45pm. 01608 642350

Events

SATURDAY: Casino night at The
Social Club, Worton Rd, Middle
Barton. 7.30pm. £10 (includes
bowl of chilli). In aid of new wheel-
chair for Lily Iltott, six, who has
Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 2.
Email jojo.lilyismum@hotmail.co.uk

TUESDAY: **Tim Collard**
exhibition: The Gallery, The
Theatre, Spring Street, Chipping
Norton. Mar 5-25. The Gallery is
open during performances and
films and Wed, Fri and Sat 11am-
3pm. 01608 642350 Mon-Fri 10-
6pm, Sat 10am-2pm

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Banbury United recover from conceding two early goals to beat Totton in the Southern League

Puritans stage a great comeback

MICHAEL Hopkins grabbed a dramatic stoppage-time winner as **Banbury United** came from two goals down to win at **AFC Totton** in the Premier Division of the Evo-Stik Southern League.

The Puritans were caught out in the second minute when a cross from the left by Baily Cargill was tapped in at the far post by Stefan Brown.

It got worse for Banbury on 20 minutes. A free-kick wide on the right was headed goalwards by Jamie Whisken and though Warren Carter gathered the ball low down at the second attempt, the assistant referee ruled that the ball had crossed the line.

The visitors responded well though, and Wayne Blossom headed just over from a Jack Ashtun free-kick.

Blossom and Kynan Isaac fired efforts wide, before Banbury pulled a goal back on 37 min-

AFC Totton 2
(Brown 2, Whisken 20)

Banbury Utd 3
(Isaac 37, Skendi 60, Hopkins 90+2)

utes. Isaac controlled a throw-in on the right, and took the ball inside before shooting past Ross Casey from eight yards.

Banbury made an excellent start to the second half, with Isaac and Chris Lait firing in shots, which brought good saves from Casey.

A deserved equaliser came on the hour mark when Albi Skendi picked up the ball from a throw on the right, beat two players before unleashing a powerful shot from a narrow angle into the far top corner.

Excellent play by Marvin Martin then set up Hopkins, but his shot went just wide.

Totton should have scored seven minutes from

time when a Richard Gillespie cross from the right was scooped over the bar by Brown from just four yards with the net at his mercy.

And in the second minute of stoppage time, Isaac set up Hopkins to smash home the winner from 12 yards.

Banbury Utd: Carter, Cray, R Plowright, Ashton, Blossom, Martin, W Plowright, Lait, Skendi, Isaac, Hopkins. Subs not used: Sharif, Bailey, Dumbleton, Talabi.

Attendance: 308.

■ Jed McCrory is to relinquish his ownership of Banbury United after taking over as Swindon Town chairman.

McCrory has been left with no alternative as Football Association rules state a person cannot have an interest in two clubs.

Banbury secretary Barry Worsley, committee member Richard Cox and David Bennett are reported to be set to take over from McCrory.

Worsley was unavailable to comment.



Banbury United scorer Kynan Isaac

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ARIES

Mar 21-Apr 19

The key to this week is not creating a picture in your mind that things are worse than they really are. Also, someone can be very reassuring, so even if one situation has or does concern you, their support can cheer. Remain resolutely positive or at the least stoical. Call now for more advice...

0906 585 4360



TAURUS

Apr 20-May 20

You might find yourself with an option, or at least a decision to make, and in both cases it can seem like you may have to lose something. You dislike giving up on long term goals, and you need to allow yourself to be more flexible and not feel guilty if you are. Call for more news and advice...

0906 585 4361



GEMINI

May 21-Jun 20

Your ruler Mercury remains in reverse, yet despite the potential for misunderstandings, with Venus right alongside for three days this week, it will be important to utilise the contacts you have, and to reach out to people who are knowledgeable and helpful. Call now for more news and advice...

0906 585 4362



CANCER

Jun 21-Jul 22

Being conscientious and caring means that you can often put yourself out for others. Yet strange as it seems, this is probably a week when you should steer clear of making pledges to help out. Instead, continue your embrace of all that is new, fresh and most of all, liberating. Call for more...

0906 585 4363



LEO

Jul 23-Aug 22

There could be some disharmony if you feel your efforts or generosity seem unappreciated by the beneficiaries. But then part of the lack of feedback could be unintended, and with Venus vibrant this week, perhaps you need to give one person the benefit of any doubt Leo. Call for more advice...

0906 585 4364



VIRGO

Aug 23-Sep 22

You can get some mixed responses this week. Someone close could be moody and unresponsive, or you may find yourself caught between two people who are not seeing eye to eye. Whilst there can be some misunderstandings, equally there can be some sweet moments. Call for more advice...

0906 585 4365



LIBRA

Sep 23-Oct 22

You can do many things in such an apparently gracious way, yet how often does this serenely belie your true feelings? Yet this week, even you could find it hard not to get too caught up in "people pleasing". To counter this, less really is more. Call your prediction line for more astral advice...

0906 585 4366



SCORPIO

Oct 23-Nov 21

The temptation to spoil those you love can be enormous, or will you be approached for some form of help Scorpio? Chances are, if this does happen, you will be on the end of some flattery. Try not to get seduced by this, or this person will never learn to take responsibility. Call for more news...

0906 585 4367



SAGITTARIUS

Nov 22-Dec 21

If you want everything your own way, someone may resist this. Negotiation, and especially of the sensitive variety, will work better than anything else, though if one person sulks, the air could become thick with tension. Try to keep communications open. Call for more news and advice...

0906 585 4368



CAPRICORN

Dec 22-Jan 19

Words, be they spoken, texted or emailed, remain the main currency for you this week, and of course, are vital all the time. However, you could create a very good impression with how you express yourself, or conversely say something that later you may regret. Call now for more advice...

0906 585 4369



AQUARIUS

Jan 20-Feb 18

Venus is known as the planet of love, but its energies help us to attract many good things, including money. And this week for three days, a mix of enterprise and personality can do precisely this for you. You may have to deal with some people who might not be your preference. Call me for more...

0906 585 4370



PISCES

Feb 19-Mar 20

If you pursue a more individualistic route, you need to be realistic that this may attract opposition. Should you abandon your approach simply to keep out of the limelight? No, just accept that singlemindedness will be inconvenient to some, and perhaps threatening to others. Call for more...

0906 585 4371

CakeProperty

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A SUBSTANTIAL and imposing Victorian detached house also offers additional income from a self-contained annexe.

The High Street, Bodicote, property, which dates back to 1882, is on the market for £650,000.

It comprises a large L-shaped dining room, a light, modern kitchen with freestanding units and Aga, and an office that would be ideal for working from home and includes separate client access.

Upstairs there is a drawing room, three double bedrooms, two of which have en suite bathroom facilities, while on the second floor there is another bedroom and bathroom with roll-top bath. The separate annexe comprises a

By Gill Oliver

kitchen, sitting room, bedroom and ensuite shower room.

It has its own access and provides good rental income or can be used for running a business from home or by a dependent relative.

For details, contact Perry Bishop and Chambers on 01367 240356 or click on perrybishop.co.uk

Meanwhile, Warren Cottage, in Longworth, dates back to 1840 but was extended in the 1970s to provide a four-bedroom detached village home.

The accommodation comprises a sitting room with fireplace, a conservatory, study with leaded-light windows, dining room, a

walk-in pantry and a kitchen/breakfast room.

On the first floor is a master bedroom and three further double bedrooms, a bathroom and a shower room.

Outside, the gardens stretch to 0.7 acres and are L-shaped. The front garden is laid mainly to lawn, with borders containing a variety of shrubs while at the back is a vegetable patch and fruit trees.

There is a gated, gravelled driveway providing off-road parking for several vehicles leading to a detached double garage with an adjacent workshop.

The agents, offering the property for £650,000, are Mark David. Call 01295 273272 or see mark-david.co.uk



High Street, Bodicote, is on the market for £650,000

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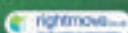
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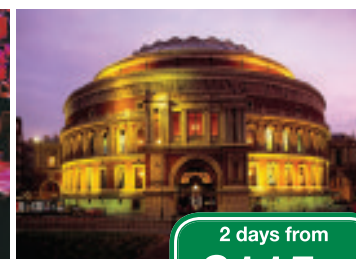
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Nimble Toyota has a featherlight feel

By David Duffy

IF a dedicated, dyed-in-the-wool motorcyclist was allowed to design a car, the result would be Toyota's GT86.

High-performance handling, styling so sharp it can make you bleed, outrageously unnecessary power and a wide streak of pure selfishness embodies everything this compact 2+2 has to offer.

Supremely comfortable — for two — the world's most compact four-seat sports car injects passion into the most ordinary of journeys.

The prospect of a 150-mile evening round trip on a frosty night, following 14 hours on the go, is not one you normally look forward to. But I couldn't wait. Any journey in a GT86 quickly develops into a finely-tuned adventure.

The key to the GT86's appeal is its focus on classic sports car fun — rear-wheel-drive, no turbocharging and ordinary tyres. The result is a lightweight, nimble car that delivers precise, instant response from the smallest throttle and steering inputs, a slick, flick-of-the-wrist, six-speed manual gearbox and a rigid chassis that glues it to the road.

Drivers are able to fully exploit the car's cornering poise, thanks to fine tuning of the brakes and steering, a lack of vehicle inertia and the fundamental benefit of the low cen-

tre of gravity. Key to its rock-solid, featherlight feel in bends is the installation of a compact, front-mounted, free-revving, horizontally-opposed 'boxer' petrol engine, with a namesake 86mm x 86mm bore and stroke, that drives the rear wheels.

The intrusion of electronic systems is kept to the minimum but anti-lock brakes, traction control and a vehicle stability control system are all on hand to help out.

The car is the only current car to feature a front-mounted, horizontally opposed engine and rear-wheel drive, but it is not the first. That was Toyota's two-cylinder boxer-engined Sports 800, which the company began developing back in 1962. Since then, Toyota established a long history of producing driver-focused sports cars with a front-engine, rear-wheel drive format.

The driver-focused cockpit houses



FUN FOCUS: Rear-wheel-drive, no turbocharging and ordinary tyres deliver precise response

a three-dial instrument cluster arranged around a large tachometer, with a digital speedometer and a red shift light which illuminates to help you make upshifts at optimum revs.

The buckskin-trimmed steering wheel is the smallest fitted to a Toyota and the race-style seatback and cushions are designed to give excellent support.

The folk behind the GT86, as it turns out, are as enthusiastic as any motorcyclist, with Toyota chief engineer Tetsuya Tada calling on his Subaru counterpart, Toshio Masuda, for help in ensuring the GT86 was as engaging as possible.

Auto facts

Model: Toyota GT86
Price: £24,995
Insurance group: 29 (1-50)
Fuel consumption (Combined): 36.2mpg
Top speed: 140mph
Length: 424cm/167in
Width: 177.5cm/69.9in
Luggage capacity: 8.6 cu ft
Fuel tank capacity: 11 gallons/50 litres
CO₂ emissions: 181g/km
Warranty: Five years/100,000 miles

Newcarscene

Car makers 'focus on UK to boost sales'

A "SLOWER than usual" start to 2013 gave way to increasingly brisk trading in the used car market as January wore on, according to CAP.

Two factors appear to have driven the eventual increase in trade appetite for cars.

Number one was a growing concern among dealers that they might be caught short of stock, as it became apparent that there were fewer cars available than typical for the start of the year. This was then coupled with a determination to snap up the best cars as soon as they appeared.

Although demand did pick up, senior editor Derren Martin sounded a cautionary note on

the future prospects for market price stability as the struggling economies of Europe may cause manufacturers to focus on the UK as their best bet to increase new car sales.

He said: "Stability is the watchword at the moment as dealers enjoy healthy retail sales.

"They are prepared to compete for the stock they can most easily turn into prime retail offerings and Black Book Live has been tracking values on the rise since the middle of January.

"Many of our franchise dealer contacts in particular have been telling us their sales are, if anything, stronger than at this point last year and even

margins are holding up — which demonstrates that consumers are also prepared to pay for quality instead of simply buying on price alone.

"However, manufacturers are having a very tough time in Europe and may well look to the UK this year as their best opportunity to keep the wolf from the door."

To add a splash of colour to dark February days, Kia has announced a bright new version of the Picanto city car along with a separate white special edition. 'Fuchsia Blush' is available on five-door Picantos in mid-range 2 and top-spec 3 trim, costing £445 as an option.

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■ SEAT is bringing even more value to its Mii city car and Ibiza supermini ranges with two special edition models. The Mii Toca and Ibiza Toca both feature the SEAT Portable System as standard — toca means 'touch' in Spanish — which brings satellite navigation, Bluetooth phone link, a MicroSD card slot for music storage, and trip computer functions. Until the end of March, the Mii Toca is reduced by £850 to £8,995, while the Ibiza Toca editions all receive a £2,705 cut, leaving the three-door (SC) model at £9,995.

■ SSANGYONG has fitted the Rodius with a new diesel engine for 2013, making the budget seven-seat people carrier better value than ever. The 2.0-litre, 153bhp unit gives impressive flexibility particularly for towing. Its fuel economy is 38.7mpg combined. With all seven seats installed, the Rodius has 875 litres of luggage space floor to ceiling. It increases to 2,271 litres with the rear three seats removed. Prices start at £15,995.

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engine, petrol,
Y reg, low
mileage, MOT
AUG, taxed to
beg June, one
careful lady
owner, full
service history,
VGC, offers
considered,
59,000 miles

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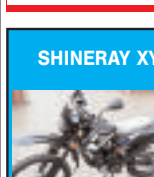
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09, MoT Dec 13, Tax
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